

10-1979

Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Tell us how this article helped you.

Recommended Citation

(1979) "Book Reviews," *East Texas Historical Journal*: Vol. 17: Iss. 2, Article 10.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol17/iss2/10>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in East Texas Historical Journal by an authorized administrator of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

BOOK REVIEWS

Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture. By Terry G. Jordan. (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, Texas 78712), 1978. Photographs, Maps, Tables, Appendices, Notes, Bibliography, Index. p. 184. \$15.95.

Terry Jordan, who teaches cultural geography at North Texas State University in Denton, has probably looked at more log buildings in the past five years than anyone else in the state. It was in 1973 that he established the Texas Log Cabin Survey at North Texas to collect information about our surviving log structures, and since then he and his students and informants have looked at, photographed, and measured nearly eight hundred of them. *Texas Log Buildings* reflects this massive, detailed field work, and at the same time is that rare bird: a book about architecture that is more than a picture book and is both scholarly and readable.

Dr. Jordan is one of a group of American cultural geographers who trace their intellectual heritage to the work done by Fred Kniffen at Louisiana State University in the late 1930s and early '40s and who are interested in house types and methods of construction as keys to understanding the cultural background of the builders. Log cabins, he argues, are keys to understanding the origins and cultural values of our own Texas ancestors, and are in fact frequently the only personal documents that the vast number of common, ordinary Texans left behind them. People whose main interest in life was making a cotton crop often did not keep diaries or write letters, but they did build their own houses, and those that survive can be read in the same way that a historian can read and analyze a personal letter. Jordan's book shows us how to read those buildings.

He concludes that Texas can be divided into five culture areas on the basis of the methods used by settlers in constructing log cabins: Lower Southern, Upper Southern, Western Anglo, German, and Swiss-Alsastian. His regional divisions are roughly congruent with those made by dialecticians and cultural anthropologists, but his evidence of a Swiss influence in the Alsastian houses in Medina County may come as a surprise to Texas ethnographers. It is definitely something that should be investigated further.

His conclusions are presented with the help of excellent photographs, charts, and maps, making this book a model regional study of folk architecture. Architectural historians might wish that the floorplans that were included showed a little more detail, such as number and placement of windows and direction of

doors, and fuller measurements, but one cannot have everything. Unlike many who write in this field, Jordan has made extensive use of documentary sources as well as field work, and his text makes a number of references to travellers' accounts and nineteenth-century descriptions of log buildings. The appendices include a list of Texas preservation projects where tourists can see log cabins, both moved and *in situ*, restored with varying degrees of accuracy (a note after one entry reads "two-single-pen log houses from different parts of Parker County moved together to make a fake dog-trot). Fortunately, he was spared the sight of a moved and "restored" double-pen cabin this reviewer recently encountered imprisoned behind a chain-link fence in the back yard of a Central Texas railroad station. He also calls our attention to a remarkable number of log structures still on their original sites, many of them still being lived in by the descendants of the builders. Some of these are incorporated into larger frame structures, but many have simply been covered with siding and are still leading a useful life more or less in their original form.

These surviving cabins are a valuable part of our heritage, not only for the sentiment that surrounds them, but as sources of information about our past. Too often, they have escaped the attention of local preservationists, who tend to be attracted to mansions or buildings which have associations with locally prominent people. The Texas Log Cabin Survey, which is housed at the North Texas State University Historical Collection, and *Texas Log Buildings* can provide each County Historical Commission in Texas with a list of structures which should be protected and maintained, so that our grandchildren will be able to see the same things in them that Dr. Jordan's book encourages us to see.

Incidentally, the Survey is by no means complete, and I am sure that Dr. Jordan will welcome additional submissions from interested readers.

Lonny Taylor
Dallas Historical Society

Wilderness Calling: The Hardeman Family in the American Westward Movement, 1750-1900. By Nicholas Perkins Hardeman. (The University of Tennessee Press, 293 Communications Building, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916), 1977. Maps, Illustrations, Notes, Bibliography, Index. p. 357. \$14.95.

Wilderness Calling is the saga of five generations of the Thomas Hardeman family intertwined with the westward expansion of America from the Cumberland Gap to California.

The book is a "microcosm of the country's westering impulse, a sampling of the great human movement in its various dimensions." (p. 289). This unusual history of one family that played a major role in every advance of the American frontier was written by one of Thomas Hardeman's descendants, Nicholas Perkins Hardeman, professor of history at California State University, Long Beach.

The author concludes that a high percentage of Hardemans were frontiersmen because they "stressed fronttering." However, the Hardemans and Burnets (Burnetts), a branch of the family, were not ordinary frontiersmen although two were mountain men and three were trail drovers. Serving in the government of the Republic of Texas were David Burnet, interim president; Bailey Hardeman, secretary of treasury; and Thomas Jones Hardeman in the legislature. Peter Hardeman Burnett was Oregon's first supreme court judge and the first elected governor of California. Hardemans fought in every American war from the Revolutionary War through World War I, the Texas War of Independence, and several Indian campaigns. Members of the family were in both the Union and the Confederate armies.

Nicholas Hardeman's primary sources are family lore that has been handed down by generations of Hardemans and a wealth of family papers and documents dating from 1750, which he retrieved in 1962 from a trunk in his parent's home in Missouri. As a history professor of the American West, he searched many historical depositories to validate the family documents and for relative historical background which he has woven together with the family history into a narrative of the westward movement.

Wilderness Calling unfolds before the reader the westward migration of one family that is representative of the fronttering spirit of America. The author presents the pursuits of the various members of the family who went diverse ways without losing continuity of the story. The two chapters devoted to Texas are filled with historical incidents that occurred during the early period of Texas. However, a historian such as Nicholas Hardeman should have done further research on the Texas Rangers with General Taylor in northern Mexico. Unfortunately, he relied on Ranger William Hardeman's account though it is natural for a participant in an event to gloss over the unfavorable aspects. In *The Texas Rangers*, Walter Prescott Webb gives the lawless and vindictive side of the Rangers as well as their scouting and fighting abilities. Yet, Professor Hardeman presents a very descriptive account of the Taylor expedition during the Mexican War. The book is a colorful story of frontier history as it was made by one family.

Billie B. Kemper
San Antonio, Texas

The Treasures of Galveston Bay. By Carroll Lewis. (Texian Press, P.O. Box 1684, Waco, Texas 76703), 1977. Illustrations, Sources, Index. p. 135. \$7.95.

The Eyes of Texas Travel Guide: Gulf Coast Edition. By Ray Miller. Cordovan Corporation, 5314 Bingle, Houston, Texas), 1977. Maps, Illustrations, Index. p. 202.

Carroll Lewis has written a very interesting book concerning the treasures of the Galveston Bay area. Beginning with a very general view of the types of treasure to be found, Mr. Lewis continues by giving the location and background of a number of alleged treasure sites. He has even gone one step further in many cases by providing a map or photograph showing the possible present location of the fortune.

The real value of the book, however, lies in the wealth of anecdotes and stories concerning both famous and infamous figures of Texas history. Chock full of stories about Jean Lafitte, his pirates, Santa Anna, and other figures, the book does an excellent job of whetting the appetite of the fortune-seeker. Mr. Lewis has collected an enormous amount of material in seeking out the background and sites of this wealth.

The book is beautifully illustrated with drawings, treasure maps (both old and new), photographs, and replicas of documents. Although unimportant in themselves, these prints serve as a very useful aid to understanding the text. Probably the most interesting prints are those that deal with the pirate Lafitte's letters.

Mr. Lewis' purpose seems to be to provide the reader with a basic book of material with which to seek his own treasure. Armed with this work and a shovel, the reader could quite conceivably find his fortune in the Galveston Bay area. While I cannot guarantee that everyone that reads this book will find his fortune, I can guarantee that he will be delightfully entertained and enlightened. Presented in a most readable style, the *Treasures of Galveston Bay* presents an adventure that could thrill virtually anyone. As Mr. Lewis says, the book is "dedicated to all those who enjoy glimpses of the past while searching for the lost treasures of history." The author has gone a very long way towards achieving his aim. I would recommend this book not only to the scholar, but also to the reader interested in good stories and folklore.

Anyone reading Carroll Lewis' book must realize the necessity of having a good geographical guide to supplement the

rough descriptions given. Ray Miller's *The Eyes of Texas Travel Guide* provides just that. Compiled and produced by the news department of KPRC-TV of Houston, the work is part of a series that was aired as the "Eyes of Texas".

The main purpose of the work, as pointed out in the introduction, is to provide a guide to those points of interest that could be visited in a short period of time. The content of the book is divided into six sections: The Atascosito District and Sabine Pass, The Houston-Galveston Area, The Middle Coast, The Corpus Christi Area, The Lower Coast, and Lighthouses of the Coast. Each section, except the last one, is then subdivided by counties.

Each chapter of the volume begins with a travel map and a brief history of the area. The chapter then contains a short narrative on the background of each individual county and an enormous amount of photographs showing important points of interest. Each photograph is accompanied by a brief reference note. The last chapter on lighthouses is somewhat different. Beginning with a map of the lighthouse locations, a brief history of each lighthouse follows, along with a picture of all those left in existence.

Although every point of interest has not been included, the book contains a wealth of information and is a worthy companion not only to Lewis' work, but to anyone desiring to tour the Gulf Coast area of Texas. The presentation of the material is in a logical and readable style and this reviewer can find no fault in the book other than suggesting that a map locating the points of interest in the book could have been included to help the unfamiliar tourist in his travels. Other than this minor fault, the book is a useful tool for everyone.

David Allnutt
Galveston, Texas

A Loose Herd of Texans. By Bill Porterfield. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843), 1978. p. 198. \$10.00.

I never heard of Bill Porterfield until recently, primarily because I have been a refugee from Texas since 1945. But after reading this collection of his writings I would like to know more about him. According to the dust jacket, the author has had a varied career as a reporter, magazine writer, and television commentator and producer. Obviously, he has seen a lot of life from both sides of the tracks and he knows how to transmit his observations and experiences into words reminiscent of an O'Henry or J. Frank Dobie.

A Loose Herd of Texans is a very appropriate title for the author's third book. It has no theme other than the fact that the assorted characters, tall tales, and short stories are drawn from what Porterfield describes as a mythical place called Texas. Each of the twenty-four pieces were originally published in regional newspapers and magazines during the late 1960s and mid-1970s. Some of the stories, particularly the one about the "Stone That Cried Like a Child," belong to the category of folklore. Others, such as the profiles of outsize personalities like Lyndon Johnson, H.L. Hunt, and Amon G. Carter are especially fascinating.

It would be difficult for the objective reader to draw any conclusion about Amon G. Carter other than the fact that he represented both the best and the worst thing that ever happened to Fort Worth. Also, that the funerals of H.L. Hunt and Lyndon Johnson, which the author attended, were supreme examples of bad taste. The Reverend W.A. Criswell, pastor of the largest Baptist Church in the world described Hunt as "a man too big for one life, a living giant with a gentle touch . . . a man wise as Solomon, a worthy, noble father" whom he often referred to as "Mr. Golden Heart." (p. 147). One of Dr. Criswell's assistant pastors then said a prayer for the deceased and used the occasion to invite any of the Hunts present who had not accepted Christ to do so. None responded.

Lyndon Johnson's funeral came off in slightly better style, thanks in part to the dignity and character of Lady Bird and her two daughters. Thanks also to that giant among Texans, John Connally, who delivered the eulogy, Anita Bryant, who "sang magnificently," (p. 195), and world renown theologian, Dr. Billy Graham, who conferred briefly with God. In all, it was the kind of drizzly day "that gives grave diggers a bailing-out fit." (p. 187)

W. Eugene Hollon
Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Poet President of Texas. By Stanley Siegel. Jenkins Publishing Company, Box 2085, Austin, Texas 78768), 1977. Notes, Bibliography, Index. p. 176. \$9.50.

The book gives the biography of Mirabeau B. Lamar. The author's aim was to stress Lamar's contributions to the establishment of the Republic of Texas.

Lamar was born on August 16, 1798, near Louisville in Georgia. Lamar was of French descent, and he was the son of a planter, John Lamar. Mirabeau Lamar's educational progress, according to the author, was impeded by lack of finance and the general lack of purpose in his early life. He tried bookkeeping, journalism and politics in Georgia. But it was all a failure.

Disappointed in Georgia, Lamar left for Texas in July 1835. In April 1836 he joined Texas' Revolutionary Army as a private. He gained distinction in the army and when Texas became independent, he was elected Vice-President in September 1836 and President in 1838. Lamar's major contributions to Texas were the expulsion of the Cherokee Indians from the choice land of East Texas, the founding of the State Capitol at Austin, and the Homestead Act of 1839.

Lamar's presidency marked the zenith of his political achievements. His last few years were a catalogue of political and diplomatic failures, and of his increasing personal financial problems. On December 19, 1859 Lamar died.

The materials in the book are well organized. The author has tried to avoid the repetition and the scattering of facts, the technique some authors use to enlarge the volumes of their books. The author has bibliographic sources and authentic records to support his work. It is obvious that the author has achieved his purpose in furnishing the biography of Lamar, with emphasis on his contributions to Texas.

Paulinus O. Effiong
Oblo, Nigeria

From Chalk to Bronze. By Alice Hutson. (Shoal Creek Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 9737, Austin, Texas 78766), 1978. Photographs, Appendix, Index. p. 172. \$15.00.

Alice Hutson has produced a very interesting and readable biography about a fascinating woman, Texas sculptor Waldine Tauch. During her career, Dr. Tauch has executed hundreds of public and private commissions for statues, portrait busts, bas-reliefs, public monuments and heroic sized bronzes such as the "Douglas MacArthur" in Brownwood and the "Texas Ranger of Today" which stood for many years at Love Field in Dallas.

Waldine Tauch was born in 1892 in Schulenburg and grew up in Flatonia and Brady. At an early age she began to carve and model in clay. By the time she graduated from high school, her ambition was to become a sculptor, not the usual desire of a small town Texas girl in the early part of the 20th century.

With financial assistance and encouragement from the Brady Tuesday Club, Waldine went to San Antonio to study with Pompeo Coppini, a well-known Italian-immigrant sculptor whose works include the Littlefield Fountain at the University of Texas in Austin. Coppini thought that women did not make good pupils and extracted from Waldine a promise not to ever marry but to devote herself to her art.

The main focus of Alice Hutson's book is on Waldine Tauch's development as a sculptor and on her complex and rewarding relationship with Coppini who was her teacher, critic, co-worker and foster father. The book contains fifty photographs of Waldine and her art and her major sculptures listed by city. The book is interesting and readable and is recommended for anyone interested in reading about an uncommon Texas woman who never succumbed to society's pressures and ideas but remained true to her own talent and vision.

Janet Jelen
Plainview, Texas

The Cowgirls. By Joyce Gibson Roach. (Cordovan Corporation, 5314 Bingle, Houston, Texas), 1977. Footnotes, Illustrations. p. 236.

The apparent simplicity of the title *The Cowgirls* belies the significance of Joyce Gibson Roach's well-researched work. A trained folklorist, she rides herd on the subject "the woman on horseback," deftly reining the cowgirls through Indian country, ranch, cattle trail, wild west show, rodeo, dime novel, and celluloid stereotype. Woman or girl, the subject of this "cowgirl" is as vast as the international scene on which the enduring American heroine still ranges via the mass media. As the author herself says, "The cowgirl in all her roles from the frontier to the footlights is what this book is all about."

For the past two or three decades, serious Western studies have all but stampeded through our presses. Roach has analyzed these and earlier publications, bringing together in *The Cowgirls* an invaluable new sourcebook for women's studies. She has also drawn from unpublished sources, including her own knowledge of ranch life and personal interviews and correspondence. The book demonstrates through myriad, verifiable examples, illustrations, and anecdotes the often colorful contributions made by individual women in the settling and the taming of the American West.

Other frontier women have not quite made it as heroines, according to Roach; "... the life of the farm wife was not heroic, — just miserable." On the Plains, especially after the Civil War "with the last traces of the Southern Camelot . . . kicked over," the cattle-frontier heroine "had to make her own rules but she was not obliged to force others to live by them." "When the female mounted a good cowhorse, . . . she realized how different and fine the view was." Like the *vaqueros* and the American cowboy, as well as mounted Indians of both sexes, the "cowgirl" would discover that to be mounted and armed was to have found a great

equalizing force. Moreover, it was to have discovered a heightened sense of individual identity which the independence of action afforded her.

The book is a veritable compendium of American female ranch personalities and the lore their careers have engendered. When the myths are removed, the portable cowgirl heroine remains. She is the American individual. This individual comprises a rich matrix of human potentialities and aspirations which exist in human experience irrespective of sex.

Ouida L. Dean

Nacogdoches, Texas

Cowhand: The Story of a Working Cowboy. By Fred Gipson. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843), 1977. p. 216. \$7.95.

It is to be lamented that Fred Gipson had not had the training necessary for one who sets about the writing of biography. For *Cowboy* is a biography told through anecdote, without pretense of connection.

It is that lack of connection which leaves the story of Fat Alford's story hollow, and without much meaning. Gipson wrote that Alford had a zest for meeting life head-on, and winning. What comes across is a man who did not understand the world into which he was born, and never really tried. Perhaps that stems from Gipson's own fascination with a west he never knew but for which he had a romantic longing. He apparently tried to transfer his own notion onto a twentieth century saddle-bum who had no real, abiding ambition to be much else.

The anecdotes upon which he built his book lack punch, possibly because he tried to emulate Louis L'Amour and lacked the talent. His language smacks of a lingo seldom if ever heard in the vocabulary of most real cowhands. It is as far from the real thing as the parade dress of the rodeo, or the trappings of the Rose Parade equestrian units from the gear of a working cowhand.

I have known cowhands from the era he writes of, a few from an earlier period, and have worked my share of cattle; I have "stomped" a few broncs. This book does not reflect their, or my life.

Ert J. Gum

University of Nebraska at Omaha

The Texas Rangers: Their First 150 Years. By John L. Davis. (Institute of Texan Cultures, 600 Hemisfair Plaza Way, San Antonio, Texas 78200), 1975. p. 114.

Public fascination with the Texas Rangers is a phenomenon

of long-standing, both within and outside of the borders of Texas. Originally a frontier regiment, and later a law enforcement group, the Rangers have been featured in novels, pulp magazines, radio, television, and the movies. A serious study came in 1935 when Professor Walter P. Webb published his scholarly work on the famed organization.

This slim volume, published by the Institute of Texan Cultures, is not intended to replace or to supplant Professor Webb's study, which may very well remain the standard work on the Rangers for many years to come. Indeed, there is relatively little new in this publication. The materials are a summary of pictures and texts originally compiled to accompany the Institute's Texas Ranger exhibits.

It is attitude, rather than content, that makes this book distinctively a break with the past. There is much more emphasis on the cultural and ethnic diversity of the men who have formed the membership of the Rangers over the years. Most noticeably, Anglo-Mexican conflict, especially in border areas, is presented in a version more sympathetic to the Mexican people than that given in earlier studies.

Although not a typical "coffee table picture book," the volume is liberally sprinkled with pictures, anecdotes, and interesting tidbits that make it appealing to the casual reader. More serious students will probably want to look further.

Adrian Anderson
Lamar University

Sangers': Pioneer Texas Merchants. By Leon Joseph Rosenberg. (Texas State Historical Association, Sid Richardson Hall, 2.306, University Station, Austin, Texas 78712). 1978. Photographs, Index. p. 135. \$12.95.

For over a century in national mercantile circles, the name "Sanger Bros." meant the highest standard in retail specialty store operation. This book tells how that accolade was well earned by tracing the immigration of the seven Sanger brothers, German Jews from Bavaria, to this country beginning in the 1850s and their eventual settlement in Texas. They began retail operations as railroad merchants, establishing stores following the post-Civil War railroad expansion into central Texas and eventually founded permanent stores in Waco, Dallas, and Fort Worth. The brothers prospered because they not only offered quality goods at reasonable prices with convenient credit terms but also because they pioneered with marketing techniques utilizing widespread newspaper advertising. Active in philanthropic and civic endeavors, the Sangers also became

prominent leaders in their communities; three of them served in Confederate armies.

The Sangers prospered until the last brother died in 1925. This loss of leadership, coupled with the business slump of that period, compelled the family to sell the retail business to a St. Louis firm, which continued to operate the stores under the Sanger name. These stores, in turn, were purchased in 1951 by a national chain, Federated Department Stores, which combined the Sanger operations in 1961 with Dallas-based A. Harris and Company. That retail operation in 1978 operated a dozen stores in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The author, a professor of marketing at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, concludes his study with an analysis of the Sangers' decline. Their major shortcoming was the failure to prepare the second generation to assume the vacant rungs of leadership left by the demise of the founding fathers - a problem, as the author further points out, that other prominent Jewish-American mercantile families usually gave the highest priority to solving. While the author does not explain to the reader's satisfaction this perplexing and intriguing failure, the work is still a very interesting study of pioneering in 19th century Texas marketing techniques.

John O. King
University of Houston

Through Time and the Valley. By John R. Erickson. (Shoal Creek Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 9737, Austin, Texas 78766), 1978. Illustrations, Appendix, Notes, Bibliography, Index. p. 185. \$12.50.

Evidently taking his inspiration from John Graves' *Goodbye to a River*, John R. Erickson attempts to do for his personal stretch of the Canadian what Graves did for a comparable stretch of the Brazos.

In June and July of 1972, Erickson, accompanied by his photographer friend, Bill Ellzey, travelled the Canadian Valley on horseback from the old town of Plemons, in Hutchinson County, eastward through Roberts and Hemphill counties to the Oklahoma line—a trip covering roughly one-third of the length of the Canadian in Texas. Erickson kept the notes which provide the basic structure of the book and Ellzey took the photographs which became its effective illustrations.

Erickson intersperses his brief description of the journey, which was dominated by heat, deer flies, and the rich hospitality of the ranch folk who live along the river, with lengthier accounts of Canadian River legend and lore and occasional excursions into

history which are the least successful aspects of the book as one might expect from its puzzlingly meager bibliography.

The eastern third of the Canadian River Valley in the Texas Panhandle probably has had as full a complement of "colorful characters" as any segment of country with a similar historical experience and Erickson has gathered its folk traditions mainly through seeking out and listening to the people of the Valley. His homework is done well and his product is good, although the long-term significance of the book may be the author's descriptions of the contemporary residents of the Canadian River Valley, who, despite the depersonalizing influences of an urban, industrialized Twentieth Century, retain something of the life style, values, and civility common to an earlier age in which people had time for an honest interest in their fellow human beings.

Erickson observes in a prefatory note that a single work is hardly equal to the subject. He is undoubtedly right, but his first book is a good start in capturing the traditions of a captivating albeit relatively little known Texas environment.

Frederick W. Rathjen
West Texas State University

Speak, Mr. Speaker. By H.G. Dulaney, E.H. Phillips and MacPhelan Reese, eds. (The Sam Rayburn Foundation, P.O. Box 309, Bonham, Texas 75418), 1978. Photographs, quotations, index. p. 489. \$12.50.

Among the most difficult figures of recent political history to describe is Sam Rayburn, the longest serving Speaker of the House of Representatives. In one sense he was a common man: he came from a poor rural family; he provided for his own college and legal training; he had simple tastes and shunned the life of a sophisticate. "I just missed being a tenant farmer," he would say, "by a gnat's whisker." But Rayburn was also an extraordinary person and demonstrated his talents in politics. Known as "Mr. Democrat," he was confidant to several Presidents, and seventeen years after his death he was selected by Congressional staffers as the most effective member of the House. Biographers face a monumental task in explaining the dual nature of Rayburn's personality: his homespun qualities and the greatness of his political talent.

Among the biographies written on Rayburn, *Speak, Mr. Speaker* comes closest in this respect. The nature of the book explains this achievement, for it is a compilation of Rayburn's speeches, correspondence, short statements and quotes. Editorial comments were kept to a minimum because the authors,

as indicated by the title, chose to let their subject speak for himself.

Focusing on Rayburn's years as Speaker, the study provides examples of his views on numerous topics, but the excerpts tend to be philosophical and reflect on the personal characteristics of "Mr. Sam," not the specifics of particular events. The chapter entitled "Johnson and Kennedy," which deals with the 1960 campaign, furnishes Rayburn's homespun thoughts on the Catholic issue, Kennedy's capacity as a leader, the Kennedy-Nixon debates and similar topics. On the selection of Johnson as Kennedy's running mate, Rayburn wrote: "Lyndon Johnson received the next most votes . . . and Kennedy next morning came to his room and asked him to run on the ticket with him." On Kennedy's religion: "I am a hardshell Baptist. But if no one gets to Heaven but us Baptists, it'll be a mighty lonely place."

Details on critical matters are not available because of the nature of the Rayburn papers, but important insights about Rayburn are easily observed. His love of the "dirt farmer" and working man served as his political principle. Whenever possible he worked for a compromise. To illustrate his position on government intervention, the authors used a touch of Rayburnism: "As you do not break a horse's leg to keep it from straying for the night, so big business ought to be regulated but not destroyed." Among his friends and enemies Rayburn was known as an honest man. His refusal to accept honorariums appears out of place in today's politics.

The success of the authors in capturing Rayburn's inner feelings comes from the advantage of knowing and working for him. To be sure, a sense of adulation is evident, but their acquaintance enabled them to see the man and grasp his blend of the simple and complex. Thus, the chief contribution of the work is the author's grasp of Rayburn as a "man of the soil." They have avoided the cold detached quality of scholarly studies and written about Rayburn's soul. To understand one of America's political legends, therefore, students will have to review *Speak, Mr. Speaker*. And the inclusion of a detailed index adds to the value of the work as a reference.

D. Clayton Brown

Texas Christian University

Our Ewing Family. By Laura Dingle Ewing. (Spindletop Museum, Lamar University, Box 10082, Beaumont, Texas 77710), 1978. Illustrations, photographs, acknowledgments, charts, maps, index. p. 503.

This family history is the first in the series of the *Nancy*

Nixon Tevis Series of History and Genealogy published by Spindletop Museum. This volume is the result of ten years' research which is evident by the excellent documentation.

This volume is divided into two sections; the first is family history and genealogy and the second is documentary proof. It contains much family information on the *Ewing, Dingle, Roddie, Ball and DeSoto Families*. A number of excellent pictures, old and new, are included to make this book a treasure. There are 250 pages of facsimile copies of Bible records, inventories, newspaper clippings, guardian accounts, probate records, military records, indenture records and land records to fully document the genealogy which is given in the first section of the book.

This book is not strictly a genealogy, but combines family history and biography, with genealogy. The volume begins with the origin of the *Ewing* clan and the *Ewing* name. Several Coats of Arms of the *Ewing* family are illustrated.

James Leeper Ewing came to Nacogdoches County by December 1843 and he leaves many descendants in this area of East Texas. This book is an excellent tribute to the *Ewing* family and Spindletop is to be commended for selecting this volume to be the first of the *Nancy Nixon Tevis Series*.

Carolyn Ericson, Curator
Stone Fort Museum

The Western Territories in the Civil War. By LeRoy H. Fischer. (Journal of the West, Box 1009, Manhattan, Kansas 66502), 1977. Maps, Illustrations, Notes, Index. p. 120. \$6.00.

While the Civil War remains the most written-about topic in American history, focus on the western theater of war has not kept pace. The absence of epic battles on the level of a Gettysburg or Antietam partially explain this neglect, but the major reason for this narrow view rests upon historians' tendency to relate western history outside the mainstream of national events. Utilizing a series of recent graduate seminars at Oklahoma State University, Professor LeRoy H. Fischer has attempted to correct the oversight by directing student research into this fertile area. Two previous topical issues of *Journal of the West*, entitled "The Civil War Era in Indian Territory" and "The Western States in the Civil War," presented the results of earlier seminars. A similarly conceived project on the western territories appeared in the April, 1977 issue of the same journal and has now been reprinted in softbound format for sales to a larger audience.

Because each chapter of this brief book stands as a separate entity, there are no transitions to link the various components.

There is, however, a general level of consistency in style and methodology which insures readability and a minimum of repetition. Documentation rests upon the 128-volume *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, some territorial newspapers, and a variety of secondary sources. Thus, while nothing new is revealed in these studies, they do relate their stories well and help draw public attention to a neglected phase of American history. Persons seeking a detailed synthesis of the subject will be better served by Ray Colton's *The Civil War in the Western Territories* and Robert Jones' *The Civil War in the Northwest*, but they should not overlook this new source which focuses upon the political and economic developments of the territories during wartime.

Michael L. Tate

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Four Brothers in Blue. By Robert Goldthwaite Carter. (The University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, Texas, 78712), 1913; reprinted 1978. Original letters, index. p. 537. \$15.00.

Texas military-historians know 4th Cavalryman Robert Carter as chronicler of Mackenzie's Indian campaigns. Carter and brother Walter also fought in the Civil War (22nd Massachusetts, August, 1862-October, 1864). Their other two brothers served, too: John, 1st Massachusetts Heavies (1861-1865), and Eugene, 8th U.S. (1861-1863). These "Four Brothers in Blue" wrote numerous wartime letters. Robert published many in limited run in 1913. This volume is now reprinted in a deservedly larger edition.

Although only West-Pointer Eugene was commissioned, all four were intelligent and literate. "The boys who served in the ranks during the Civil War," reflected Robert (pp. 272-73), "although perhaps obscure . . . were, nevertheless, the flower of the land. Bright, intelligent and right from the schools, colleges, stores, workshops and offices, they were very *close observers*, and what they saw and heard they jotted down in diaries and letters home. Many of these memorandums form . . . the most valuable of all data upon which to found the future historians' account of that year."

The Carter letters particularly deserve such praise. They vividly convey soldier life, attitudes, and experiences. They reveal Regular Eugene, solicitous, grumbling, McClellanistic; garrison-soldier John, thirsting for action and finally getting it; and underage Robert, rebellious and anti-authoritarian. But primarily they depict Walter's rise from recruit to sergeant-major

and from boyhood to manhood. Brave, noble, moral, patriotic, oft-tried and ever faithful, he is the hero of this volume.

The brothers thus appear in their correspondence. To it, Robert added informative postwar narrative. Unfortunately, his commentary sometimes merely paraphrased letters or needlessly recounted whole battles. His editing is also disappointing. Such excellent letters deserve printing in entirety, not just in an often fragmentary selection. Most concern field service, especially Walter's. Less exciting but still important tours like John's garrison duty and Eugene's and Robert's home-front assignments after July, 1863, are regrettably slighted or omitted.

Other original shortcomings are factual and typographical errors. Deplorably, John Carroll left these in the re-issue, provided no annotation, and contented himself with preparing a primitive proto-index.

Nonetheless, the letters themselves - and Frank Vandiver's felicitous foreword - are so good that the book is a must for Civil War scholars and buffs.

Richard J. Sommers
U.S. Army Military
History Institute

Walter Hines Page, The Southerner as American, 1855-1918. By John Milton Cooper Jr. (The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27514), 1977. Notes, bibliography, index, illustrations. p. 457. \$15.95.

Walter Hines Page, the subject of this impressive biography by Professor John Milton Cooper, Jr., of the University of Wisconsin, is best remembered for his four-year stint as American Ambassador to Great Britain during World War I. Yet, as Professor Cooper so adroitly demonstrates, this episode in Page's long career was the most unpleasant for him personally and the least productive part of his life, even though it was both momentous in its consequences and well-publicized. Certainly Page would not have become as well known then or now had he not served a frustrating tenure as ambassador to the Court of St. James.

To Cooper, Page symbolized the dilemma of the post Civil War South when circumstances forced Southerners to chart a new course for their section. Like so many other intelligent and sensitive Southerners, Page realized that the South could not live on its past laurels and that it must adjust to a rapidly changing world. As a result, he championed the idea of a New South, but unlike Henry Grady of Atlanta he did not favor embracing Northern ways totally and uncritically since giant factories and

urban squalor were repulsive to his nature. Consequently, he sought to preserve the best of Southern traits and urged his fellow Southerners to be selective in their adoption of Yankee ways.

As Professor Cooper explains, Walter Hines Page was driven by contradictory impulses. He possessed a love-hate attitude toward his native South in which he tried alternately to change her ways and to defend her against outside critics. He retained a fascination about and an appreciation of black Southerners, yet he never lost his racial prejudices and was responsible for publishing the work of Thomas Dixon, one of the worst bigots of the period.

In his personal life Page was motivated by conflicting goals. He aspired to be creative and to wield social influence; yet he also craved financial success. By becoming a publisher Page was able to accomplish both goals even though he never acquired the financial independence he would have liked, but he did wield considerable influence as editor of *Forum* and *Atlantic Monthly*, as publisher of *World's Work*, and as a member of the Southern Education Board where he was able to make some improvements in Southern education.

Cooper has written a definitive biography of an important Southerner whose accomplishments have largely gone unrecognized. The author's research is impeccable, and his writing style is lively and easy to read. My only complaint is that Cooper goes into more detail than is necessary — especially in describing Page's years in England where, by the author's own admission, his influence was negligible. A shorter and more succinct study would have sufficed.

Robert V. Haynes
University of Houston

Frederic Remington and the West. By Ben Merchant Vorpahl.
(University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, Texas, 78712),
1978. Photographs, Index. p. 294. \$15.95.

Western artist Frederic Remington died in 1909 at the age of forty-eight, a disappointed man. He longed to be included within the "Immortal Band" of great artists of his day, but his eclecticism, his search for direction, and his disillusionment with the New West vitally affected his work and robbed him of greatness. This is a theme analyzed with sensitivity by Ben Merchant Vorpahl in his *Frederic Remington and the West*. Vorpahl argues that Remington was not a Western artist, but an illustrator who used the West in many ways: as an escape from frustrations, as a commodity for sale, and finally as a symbol of the passing of an era. Remington defined the West as a condition,

and his work reflected his feelings toward that condition. Vorpahl studies Remington's graphic, literary, and sculptural productions and discusses how they mirrored his evolution as an artist and writer. The result is a refreshing analysis of Remington the man, his West, and what made him tick.

The author structures his book like a biography. Early chapters detail Remington's preoccupation with martial themes, a preoccupation influenced by his father's Civil War experiences, a personal attraction to the energetic life, and sojourns with the army in the Southwest. His response found expression in highly kinetic illustrations for *Harper's* and other magazines which proved timely and remunerative. But times changed, and, as later chapters show, Remington shifted away from martial subjects. Shaken by the role of the army at Wounded Knee, he sought new fields and new subjects. Further disillusionment came with army involvement in the Chicago Strike of 1894 and his visit during the Spanish American War to the battlefields in Cuba. Remington turned back to the West he knew—the West of the 1880s—and focused on the cowboy, attempting to bring the past into the present. With each piece of art he became increasingly identified with the earlier epoch, and, as he wrote about and portrayed its passing, he projected his own demise. Thus Remington's response to the West was a personal adventure by a man in search of his destiny.

The book has certain weaknesses. Geronimo surrendered to Gatewood in the Torres Mountains in Mexico, instead of inside Arizona, as intimated on p. 65. The references to Remington's racism, populism and isolationism deserve a fuller exposition. In places the author's prose is confusing, (i.e., p. 88). Many paragraphs are long and tedious. Footnotes are sprinkled up and down the page margins, making reference checking difficult. Although the author does not include a picture of his subject, he presents thirty-two plates that mirror various stages and aspects of Remington's work. Students of Western art will find Vorpahl's book stimulating, but the average *aficionado* of Remington will pronounce the discussion highly subjective, difficult to understand, and bordering on a psycho-biography.

Harwood P. Hinton

University of Arizona

The Cajuns: Essays on Their History and Culture. By Glen R. Conrad. (The Center for Louisiana Studies, P.O. Box 4-0831, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, Louisiana 70504), 1978. Illustrations, notes, appendix, index. p. 432. \$17.00.

The Cajuns covers the period of the seventeenth to the

twentieth century and reveals the social and cultural history of the Cajuns in Nova Scotia, and in the "bayou Country" of Louisiana. The work is designed to inform the world that the Cajuns are in the vanguard of life and have specific emphasis in international matters. Describing the Cajun lifestyle of total involvement, the book reveals the cultural changes that have marked the growth and assimilation of the Cajuns in the world society.

The authors have done careful research in France, Santo Domingo, Canada and the United States to bring together an authoritative account of the Cajuns' history. This well documented work will be useful to scholars who desire material concerning Acadia and the Cajuns.

The twelve essayists discuss the life of the Cajuns and pinpoint the changes in education, cultural folkways and politics that have adapted to the cosmopolitan world society. The essays are filled with detailed accounts concerning the Cajuns. Conrad desired to show the importance of the Cajuns in the United States, and he succeeds in supporting his thesis that the Cajuns are in the vanguard of society. Though the essayists take the reader through meticulous information, they keep a fresh awareness present to spur the reader to learning more about the twentieth century Cajuns. Containing folklore, voting graphs, and general information that is unavailable except through detailed research, Conrad presents highly informative knowledge of the influence of the Cajuns in our present society.

The material was organized in a narrative fashion which helped the reader gain a time-perspective of the advent of the Cajuns in the world scene. With a complicated subject to present to a world which knows little about the Acadians, the essayists provided the public with a thorough account of the history and influence of the Cajuns in the twentieth century society.

John M. McIntyre
Hughes Springs, Texas

Long Journey Home: Folklife in the South. Allen Tullos, ed. Chapel Hill, N.C. (*Southern Exposure*, P.O. Box 230, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514), 1977. p. 224. \$4.50.

Folklore and Fakelore. Richard M. Dorson. Cambridge, Massachusetts (Harvard University Press), 1976. p. 391.

Long Journey Home is a special folklife issue edited by Allen Tullos and published by *Southern Exposure*, a quality journal on Southern culture and politics. The book is beautiful and it is a bargain in an 8½ x 11" paperback at \$4.50. Good layout by Mary Margaret Wade made the most of both contemporary and

old-time pictures, as well as poetry. The extras on this book include a fine critical review by W.K. McNeil, "Southern Folk Music on Records," an interpretive discussion of Southern "Centers, Schools, Libraries and Archives" that deal with folklore, a good bibliography, and a review section of books on Southern culture. *Long Journey Home* is a good beginning for someone who wants to see what Southern folklife includes.

Of course, one book cannot cover everything, but the editorial selection of articles for *Long Journey Home* discusses topics of significance: religion, music, crafts, sports, occupations, ethnic groups. It is a good start. Buell Cobb's "Fasola Folk: Sacred Harp Singing" fits in well with Brett Sutton's article on Primitive Baptists, Sacred Harp's main singers. Music chapters start with old-time string bands, work through blues and Dixie Rock to modern Cajun stomps and zydeco. Pat Mullen brings Texas into the Southern exposure with an article on tale tellers among fishermen on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Long Journey Home has a slight clinically antiseptic tone that is usually found in the academic approach to folklore, but the richness and wealth of material compensates for that.

Richard Dorson's *Folklore and Fakelore* is definitely a book for academicians in folklore. It is a good book for folklorists. Dorson is very readable, and he covers most of the problems of the scientific study of folklore in a logical and interesting way.

Dorson opens the collection of essays with his well-worn attack on fakelore, a field he claims to have pioneered and a term that he is very proud to have coined. Fakelore consists of those artsy-craftsy-cutesy tales that journalists have foisted on the public as grass-roots folklore—the tales of Paul Bunyan, Stormalong, and Pecos Bill, for example. Dorson has done well to identify these imposters, but he wears his academic Ralph Nader suit too pompously and self-righteously and sometimes becomes a bore.

The body of the book consists of essays on various facets of folklore that Dorson has been involved with—Celtic folklore, philosophical essays on oral literature, history and folklore, and a conclusive chapter where he illustrates his folklore-fakelore with essays on John Henry and Paul Bunyan.

Folklore and Fakelore is a "best of Dorson" anthology which supposedly will shore up his reputation against the ravages of time and taste.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin
State University